

Introduction

REPORT OVERVIEW

Florida's court system is organized into four different tiers, with a two-tier appellate court system and a two-tier trial court system. The appellate court system includes the Supreme Court of Florida and the five District Courts of Appeal. Additionally, the trial court system comprises both circuit and county courts. The *Statistical Reference Guide* provides statistics pertaining to Florida's trial courts for fiscal year 2020-21 (July 1, 2020, through June 30, 2021). These statistics were verified by the Office of the State Courts Administrator (OSCA) as of November 2021.

The OSCA publishes the *Statistical Reference Guide* annually as a resource for the judicial branch and others who often request information on Florida's trial courts. The majority of the requests deal with filings and dispositions data and are received from those outside of the OSCA, including: state and local government agencies, circuit court administration, private sector businesses, citizens, clerks of court, and the media. In addition, all data can be accessed on the web at www.flcourts.org.

The information and statistics contained in this report are organized as follows:

Introduction - The first section provides a table providing the population for each circuit and county along with a map of the state of Florida identifying the location of each of Florida's 20 judicial circuits and 67 counties. Additionally, this section provides an explanation for how the data are collected, maintained, and verified for accuracy.

Overall Statistics - The Overall Statistics section provides a breakdown of the number and assignment of circuit and county judgeships for each judicial circuit. Also provided are statewide statistics for total circuit and county court filings and dispositions.

By-Division Statistics - The By-Division section displays filings, dispositions, clearance rates, reopenings, and other statistics by each division of court (Circuit Criminal, Circuit Civil, Circuit Family Court, Circuit Probate, County Criminal, and County Civil). Statewide, circuit, and county level data are furnished by various categories and case types that comprise each division.

Acknowledgements - This section acknowledges those associated with the preparation, compilation, analysis, and submission of trial court data.

Glossary - The glossary provides definitions for common terms used across every division of the trial courts and terms specific to each division.

FLORIDA POPULATION*
by Circuit/County
as of January 2020 and January 2021

Circuit/County (Circuit Ranking**)	Total Population (as of January 2020)	Total Population (as of January 2021)	Percentage Change from 2020 to 2021
Circuit 1 (14)	779,929	796,944	2.2%
Escambia	323,282	325,438	0.7%
Okaloosa	203,231	205,412	1.1%
Santa Rosa	181,858	188,315	3.6%
Walton	71,558	77,779	8.7%
Circuit 2 (16)	414,259	417,199	0.7%
Franklin	12,228	11,932	-2.4%
Gadsden	46,303	46,427	0.3%
Jefferson	14,807	14,408	-2.7%
Leon	298,948	301,296	0.8%
Liberty	8,762	8,609	-1.7%
Wakulla	33,211	34,527	4.0%
Circuit 3 (19)	198,159	197,942	-0.1%
Columbia	70,533	70,708	0.2%
Dixie	16,675	16,694	0.1%
Hamilton	14,608	14,596	-0.1%
Lafayette	8,646	8,833	2.2%
Madison	19,325	18,952	-1.9%
Suwannee	45,787	45,692	-0.2%
Taylor	22,585	22,467	-0.5%
Circuit 4 (8)	1,286,329	1,303,951	1.4%
Clay	218,088	222,613	2.1%
Duval	981,762	989,377	0.8%
Nassau	86,479	91,961	6.3%

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FLORIDA POPULATION* by Circuit/County as of January 2020 and January 2021

Circuit/County (Circuit Ranking**)	Total Population (as of January 2020)	Total Population (as of January 2021)	Percentage Change from 2020 to 2021
Circuit 5 (9)	1,199,890	1,241,079	3.4%
Citrus	148,985	150,412	1.0%
Hernando	190,682	194,833	2.2%
Lake	364,273	372,669	2.3%
Marion	364,561	373,117	2.3%
Sumter	131,389	150,048	14.2%
Circuit 6 (4)	1,517,984	1,540,338	1.5%
Pasco	534,780	552,739	3.4%
Pinellas	983,204	987,599	0.4%
Circuit 7 (11)	991,104	1,016,632	2.6%
Flagler	112,707	116,578	3.4%
Putnam	73,325	73,909	0.8%
St. Johns	261,494	266,396	1.9%
Volusia	543,578	559,749	3.0%
Circuit 8 (17)	401,346	407,431	1.5%
Alachua	269,192	274,057	1.8%
Baker	28,452	28,677	0.8%
Bradford	28,768	28,782	0.0%
Gilchrist	17,926	18,567	3.6%
Levy	41,516	41,921	1.0%
Union	15,492	15,427	-0.4%
Circuit 9 (3)	1,791,927	1,833,188	2.3%
Orange	1,410,714	1,435,187	1.7%
Osceola	381,213	398,001	4.4%

FLORIDA POPULATION*
by Circuit/County
as of January 2020 and January 2021

Circuit/County (Circuit Ranking**)	Total Population (as of January 2020)	Total Population (as of January 2021)	Percentage Change from 2020 to 2021
Circuit 10 (13)	832,240	863,754	3.8%
Hardee	27,522	27,440	-0.3%
Highlands	104,012	105,694	1.6%
Polk	700,706	730,620	4.3%
Circuit 11 (1)	2,842,115	2,847,942	0.2%
Miami-Dade	2,842,115	2,847,942	0.2%
Circuit 12 (12)	861,482	890,329	3.3%
Desoto	36,265	37,662	3.9%
Manatee	393,695	405,803	3.1%
Sarasota	431,522	446,864	3.6%
Circuit 13 (5)	1,466,952	1,500,939	2.3%
Hillsborough	1,466,952	1,500,939	2.3%
Circuit 14 (18)	294,723	297,311	0.9%
Bay	173,263	175,864	1.5%
Calhoun	14,666	14,572	-0.6%
Gulf	14,287	14,813	3.7%
Holmes	20,145	19,995	-0.7%
Jackson	47,103	46,626	-1.0%
Washington	25,259	25,441	0.7%
Circuit 15 (6)	1,461,340	1,479,233	1.2%
Palm Beach	1,461,340	1,479,233	1.2%
Circuit 16 (20)	76,253	77,907	2.2%
Monroe	76,253	77,907	2.2%

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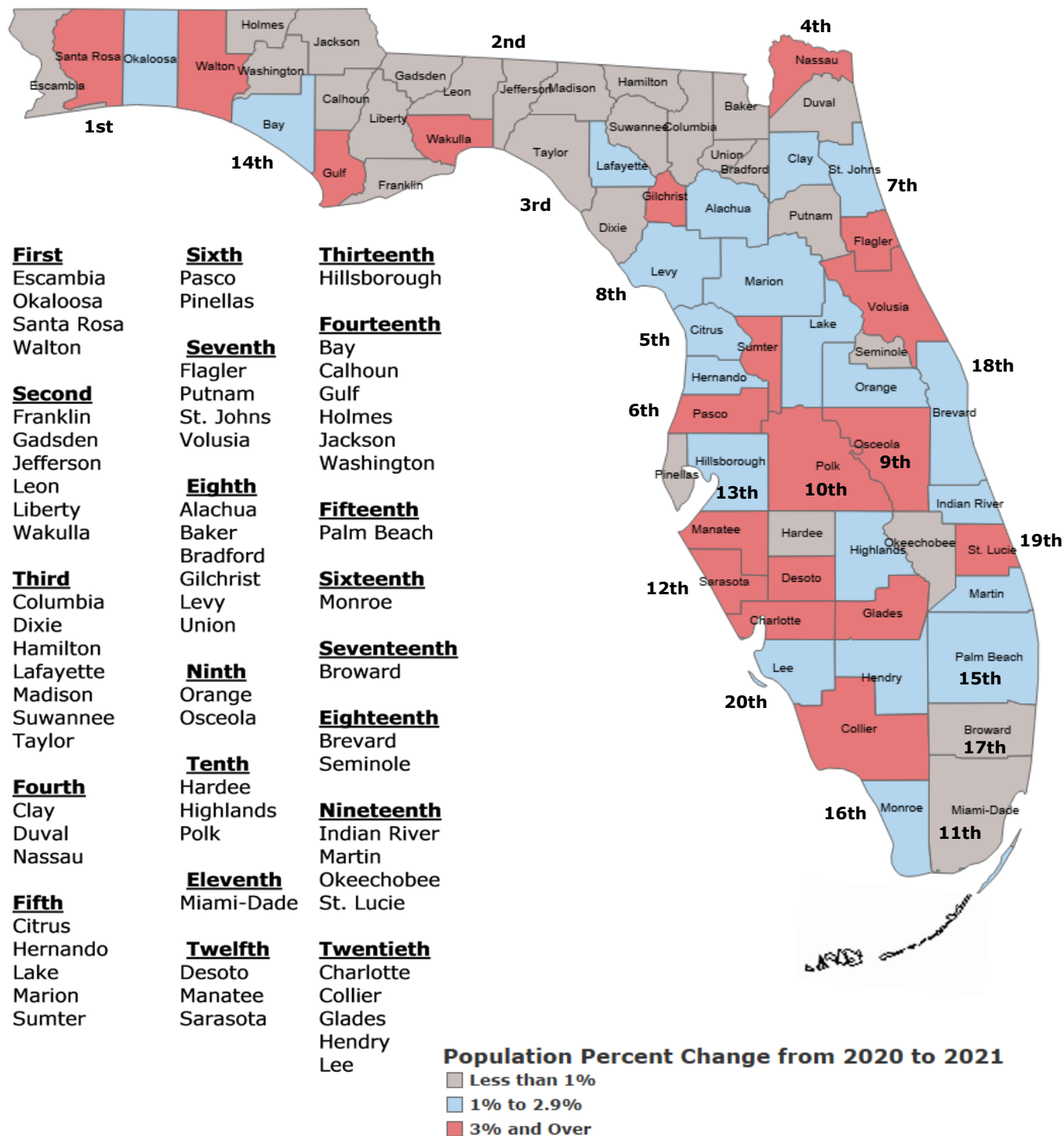
FLORIDA POPULATION* by Circuit/County as of January 2020 and January 2021

Circuit/County (Circuit Ranking**)	Total Population (as of January 2020)	Total Population (as of January 2021)	Percentage Change from 2020 to 2021
Circuit 17 (2)	1,935,821	1,940,246	0.2%
Broward	1,935,821	1,940,246	0.2%
Circuit 18 (10)	1,077,462	1,094,155	1.5%
Brevard	600,411	614,165	2.3%
Seminole	477,051	479,990	0.6%
Circuit 19 (15)	672,838	697,195	3.6%
Indian River	156,951	161,359	2.8%
Martin	160,076	162,923	1.8%
Okeechobee	42,044	42,224	0.4%
St. Lucie	313,767	330,689	5.4%
Circuit 20 (7)	1,368,622	1,402,469	2.5%
Charlotte	183,986	191,897	4.3%
Collier	382,663	394,514	3.1%
Glades	13,192	13,906	5.4%
Hendry	40,412	41,462	2.6%
Lee	748,369	760,690	1.6%
Total	21,470,775	21,846,184	1.7%

*January 2020 and January 2021 population figures were provided by the Office of Economic and Demographic Research of the Florida Legislature to the Office of the State Courts Administrator in August 2020 and August 2021, respectively.

**Circuit ranking is based on total population as of January 2021.

JUDICIAL CIRCUIT MAP OF FLORIDA



Introduction

DESCRIPTION OF TRIAL COURT DATA

Pursuant to section 25.075, Florida Statutes, the Summary Reporting System (SRS) was developed to provide the Office of the State Courts Administrator (OSCA) with data to assist the Supreme Court of Florida in its management and oversight role of the court system. The data are utilized as a measure of trial court activity in Florida. These data are not intended to measure the work of state attorneys or public defenders. Data for the SRS are submitted monthly by the 67 clerks of court offices via electronic or hard-copy submission in a format prescribed by the OSCA. Exceptions to this are traffic data (county criminal traffic, driving under the influence, and civil traffic infractions), which were obtained from the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles through fiscal year 2011-12. Traffic data beginning in fiscal year 2012-13 are obtained from the Florida Court Clerks and Comptrollers.

Upon receipt of the SRS reports from the clerks of court, the OSCA staff review the data for accuracy, either manually or through the use of an automated program designed to detect anomalies. If anomalies are detected, the county is contacted to verify or correct the data. SRS data are maintained in a dynamic database that is continually updated. All counties are required to maintain audit trail information for three years following the submission of the SRS data to the OSCA. Amendments to previously reported data may be submitted by the clerks up to three years after the original submission deadline. The OSCA also conducts remote and field audits of the trial courts data submitted by the clerks of court. These audits are conducted to ensure compliance to the SRS reporting guidelines as specified in the *Florida Summary Reporting System Manual* (available at www.flcourts.org).

Each fall, a permanent database is created for the previous fiscal year. Data amendments submitted by the clerks of court after the creation of the database are not incorporated into the permanent database (although amendments are still incorporated into the dynamic database). If any data have not been submitted at the time the fiscal year database is generated, an automated program designed to estimate missing data is utilized. The permanent database is utilized for reporting statistics in the certification of new judgeships and in standardized judicial branch reports regarding performance and accountability and long-range program planning. The information in the permanent database is also utilized in the production of this *Statistical Reference Guide*.

As previously mentioned, the trial courts are composed of two levels and six different divisions. The circuit level includes criminal, civil, family court, and probate divisions and the county level consists of criminal and civil divisions. Within each division are several categories of cases. Moreover, within each of the categories are various case types. For instance, the Circuit Criminal division includes the following categories: capital murder, serious crimes against persons, less serious crimes against persons, crimes against property, and drug offenses.

Furthermore, the Crimes Against Property category includes the following case types: burglary, theft, forgery, fraud, worthless checks, other crimes against property, and other felony offenses. The detailed categories and case types pertaining to each division are provided in the by-division section of this report.

Note: All percentages provided in the report have been rounded. Therefore, totals may not equal 100%.